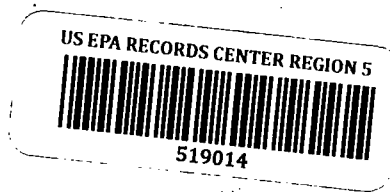




ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

7.6
8/7/85
MEMORANDUM



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AUG 13 1985

IEPA-DLPC

DATE: August 7, 1985
TO: Gloria Craven
FROM: Mike Orloff
SUBJECT: Refinery Products, Schiller Park Site Visit

Purpose:

On August 1, 1985, I made a site visit to Refinery Products and assessed community concerns. The following local officials and residents were interviewed:

- 1) Edward E. Bluthardt, Mayor
City Hall
NON-RESPONSIVE
- 2) Roy McCampbell, Health Officer
City Hall
- 3) NON-RESPONSIVE
- 4) NON-RESPONSIVE
- 5) NON-RESPONSIVE

Summary

The Community assessment proved to be of value. Public officials and most residents were concerned with their personal safety with the potential of explosion at the facility. Judging from the residents interviewed, Refinery Products was a messy operation.

Background

Originally, the building at the site was used by the railroad as a ice house. The site changed hands a couple of times until John Suerth took over the site to refine oil products.

Discussion

Since it has just rained the other day, the pooling water around the site was clear. Usually, the pools are black. Chemical odors permeate the air according to the residents. They are more concerned with the potential for explosion at the site and much less concerned with the pooling of oil in their street. Apparently, because of the oily appearance of their pools, most people stay away from them. However, foot paths run right near the site.

We saw an aerator which was made with a garden hose nozzle within the bermed area. I was told when it was operating and there was a west wind that one of the residents was sprayed with oil.

I was informed by a resident that the owner, John Suerth, was inside the facility last Saturday or Sunday, and he was working near some tanks in the yard. He has been in and out of the facility every other day for the past year or so.

We were told by most of the residents that Mr. Suerth's operation was a messy one. They washed tank trucks in the street and let the waste wash down the sewer.

About a year ago there was an explosion outside the plant where a tank truck was parked. It was thought that an employee tried to light a cigarette and an explosion occurred which was felt by the residents.

Public officials and residents would be glad to see the building torn down by the Agency when the cleanup is completed. No commitments were made.

The LPC Division anticipated a contract will be signed by August 15 and work would be starting ASAP. There was a court hearing and Mr. Suerth agreed to do Phase I testing and inventorying of hazardous chemicals at the site. Phase II will involve the actual cleanup at the site and disposal of hazardous waste, and Phase III will involve a hydrogeologic study of the site and installation of monitoring wells.

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Refinery Products, Schiller Park

Recommendation

- 1) The city is extremely interested that the contingency plan includes them in the safety process and that the Agency closely coordinates its action with them.
- 2) The standing pools of water and oil around the site is of a low priority to the residents. In my opinion, direct cleanup action to reduce and eliminate any safety hazards is more important.

MO/lp/Doc 0039L

cc: Jim Frank
Jim Janssen
Steve Colantino
Eddie Lin
Ted Denning